

**Macbeth's 1st soliloquy, 1.7 (Inverness) – to kill or not to kill?**

'If it were done, when 'tis done, then 'twere well  
It were done quickly: if th' assassination  
Could trammel up the consequence, and catch,  
With his surcease, success; that but this blow  
Might be the be-all and the end-all here,  
But here, upon this bank and shoal of time,  
We'd jump the life to come. But in these cases  
We still have judgement here: that we but teach  
Blood instructions, which being taught return  
To plague th'inventor: this even-handed justice  
Commends th'ingredience of our poisoned chalice  
To our own lips. He's here in double trust:  
First, as I am his kinsman and his subject,  
Strong both against the deed: then, as his host,  
Who should against his murderer shut the door,  
Not bear the knife myself. Besides, this Duncan  
Hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been  
So clear in his great office, that his virtues  
Will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued, against  
The deep damnation of his taking-off;  
And pity, like a naked new-born babe,  
Striding the blast, or Heaven's cherubin, horsed  
Upon the sightless couriers of the air,  
Shall blow the horrid deed in every eye,  
That tears shall drown the wind. I have no spur  
To prick the sides of my intent, but only  
Vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself,  
And falls on th'other – (enter Lady Macbeth)  
- How now! What news?

**Macbeth's 2<sup>nd</sup> soliloquy, 2.1 (Inverness) – a decision is made**

'Is this a dagger which I see before me,  
The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee.  
I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.  
Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible  
To feeling as to sight? Or art thou but  
A dagger of the mind, a false creation,  
Proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain?  
I see thee yet, in form as palpable  
As this which now I d raw.  
Thou marshall'st me the way that I was going,  
And such an instrument I was to use!  
Mine eyes are made the fools o'th'other senses,  
Or else worth all the rest: I see thee still;  
And on thy blade and dudgeon gouts of blood,  
Which was not so before. There's no such thing:  
It is the bloody business which informs  
Thus to mine eyes. Now o'er the one half-world  
Nature seems dead, and wicked dreams abuse  
The curtained sleep; now witchcraft celebrates  
Pales Hecate's off'rings; and withered Murder,  
Alarumed by his sentinel, the wolf,  
Whose howl's his watch, thus with his stealthy pace,  
With tarquin's ravishing strides, towards his design  
Moves like a ghost. Thou sure and firm-set earth,  
Hear not my steps, which way they walk, for fear  
Thy very stones prate of my whereabout,  
And take the present horror from the time,  
Which now suits with it. Whiles I threat, he lives:  
Words to the heat of deeds too cold breath gives. (A bell rings)  
I go, and it is done: the bell invites me.  
Hear it not, Duncan, for it is a knell  
That summons thee to heaven, or to hell.

### **Macbeth's 3<sup>rd</sup> soliloquy – fearing Banquo**

'To be thus is nothing,  
But to be safely thus: our fears in Banquo  
Stick deep, and in his royalty of nature  
Reigns that which would be feared. 'tis much he dares,  
And, to that dauntless temper of his mind,  
He hath a wisdom that doth guide his valour  
To act in safety. There is none but he  
Whose being I do fear: and under him  
My Genius is rebuked, as it is said  
Mark Antony's was by Caesar. He chid the Sisters,  
When first they put the name of king upon me,  
And bade them speak to him; then prophet-like  
They hailed him father to a line of kings:  
Upon my head they placed a fruitless crown,  
And put a barren sceptre in my gripe,  
Thence to be wrenched with an unlineal hand,  
No son of mine succeeding. If't be so,  
For Banquo's issue have I filed my mind,  
For them the gracious Duncan have I murdered,  
Put rancours in the vessel of my peace  
Only for them, and mine eternal jewel  
Given to the common enemy of man,  
To make them kings, the seed of Banquo kings!  
Rather than so, come fate into the list,  
And champion me to th' utterance! ....Who's there?

### **QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT**

- Show how the experiences and/or behaviour of a character or individual were important in your studied text
- Analyse how the presentation of conflict helped develop your understanding of an important issue